

**STANLY COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 5, 2017**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bill Lawhon, Chairman
Joseph Burleson, Vice Chairman
Scott Efirm
Janet K. Lowder
Gene McIntyre
Ashley Morgan
Matthew Swain

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Andy Lucas, County Manager
Jenny Furr, County Attorney
Tyler Brummitt, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Stanly County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in regular session on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room, Stanly Commons. Chairman Lawhon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with Vice Chairman Burleson giving the invocation and leading the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL / ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

With no adjustments to the agenda, Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve it as presented. His motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Burleson and passed by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 1 – RETIREMENT AWARD PRESENTATION FOR DAVID GRIFFIN

With his pending retirement on June 30, 2017, the Board and members of the Airport Authority took a few moments to recognize David Griffin for his years of service to the county.

ITEM # 2 – PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2017-18 RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Chairman Lawhon noted that in accordance with NCGS 159-12(b), a public hearing regarding the FY 2017-18 recommended budget must be held prior to its adoption. With no questions from the Board, he declared the public hearing open.

DSS Director Tammy Schrenker addressed the Board regarding the department's request for overtime or "gap" pay to be included in their budget request which was not included in the Manager's recommended budget. She stated concerns that the quality of work by DSS employees would suffer when overtime may be needed to meet demand and that there would be no cushion to handle such situations in the budget. Ms. Schrenker also noted that gap pay is reimbursed by the state at a rate of 45% if and when it is used.

Ridgecrest Volunteer Fire Department representatives Chief Ricky Eudy and Deputy Chief Charlie Carriker were present to answer questions regarding the fire department's request to increase the fire district tax from \$0.09¢ to \$0.11¢ per \$100. The additional revenue will be used to replace a 1990 tanker in the short-term and also provide funding for long-term projects such as replacement of other vehicles, addition of a 5th day department coverage and eventually a 6th day of coverage and to replace/ upgrade the current fire department building.

Ron Crawley came forward to speak against West Stanly Senior Center's request for the County to take over full operations of their facility. Instead he recommended the County provide funding for SCUSA to transport West Stanly seniors to the Albemarle Senior Center as well as seniors from the other municipalities who may want to be involved. He ended by saying that he feels that the Locust community should be responsible for developing and operating its own center and requested the Board decline the request.

Kelly Dombrowski, Principal of the new Oakboro Choice STEM School took a few moments to introduce herself, her vision for the school and the latest figures related to projected enrollment based on the number of applications submitted.

Phil Burris, Chief of the Millingport Volunteer Fire Department, addressed the Board concerning their request to increase the fire district tax from \$0.05¢ to \$0.10¢ per \$100. The additional revenue will be used to increase operational coverage and assist with the replacement of aging equipment over the next five (5) years.

Robert Wilhoit and Chad Allen of the Stanly County Rescue Squad requested the Board consider an increase from \$10,000 to \$60,000. This request includes \$12,000 to be consistent with the funding each of the fire departments receive for staffing. The additional funds would be used to staff two (2) additional positions which will also help to supplement the local volunteer fire departments on calls, staff the department during the day time hours and update equipment. Mr. Wilhoit noted that the rescue's annual operating budget requires a little over \$60,000 annually with no extras.

With no one else coming forward, Chairman Lawhon declared the public hearing closed.

The first budget workshop was set for Thursday, June 8th at 4:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room of the Stanly Commons.

ITEM # 3 – JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL (JCPC) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Presenter: Jackie DeSantis, JCPC Chairperson

As part of its annual certification, Ms. DeSantis presented the list of local JCPC members for appointment and acceptance of the \$1,000 allocated from the state into the JCPC Administrative Budget for FY 2017-18.

Vice Chairman Burleson stated he would like to have time to review the volunteer applications for the four (4) county commissioner appointees being considered for reappointment and requested the item be tabled. In response, Commissioner McIntyre noted that volunteer applications are not normally required for members currently serving on a county board/committee and that the appointees listed were appointed last year to serve on the JCPC.

Vice Chairman Burleson amended the motion to table only the appointments of the members listed as 19-25 (Jon-Michael Haymond, Phillip Speight, Chris Fish, Jessica Holt, Fredia Owens, Ashley Lowery and Jackie DeSantis) stating he would still like to see the applications on file for background information prior to taking any action. Commissioner McIntyre noted that several of the members serve on the council because of their jobs/positions and do not require volunteer applications adding that the Board also needs to take action to appropriate the \$1,000 for the JCPC budget. Vice Chairman Burleson reiterated that he was still not comfortable reappointing the members without applications. However, he amended the motion again to table the appointments of members 19-24 and excluded 25 (Jackie DeSantis) which was part of his earlier motion.

After continued discussion, Vice Chairman Burleson amended his motion again to include tabling the appointments for members 21, 22 and 23 (Chris Fish, Jessica Holt and Fredia Owens). Commissioner Morgan seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Chairman Lawhon called for the vote. The motion to table the appointments failed by a 5 – 2 vote.

Ayes: Vice Chairman Burleson and Commissioner Morgan

Nos: Chairman Lawhon, Commissioner Efird, Commissioner Lowder, Commissioner McIntyre and Commissioner Swain

Commissioner McIntyre moved to approve the appointments as presented and accept the \$1,000 into the JCPC budget for next fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner

Efird. Prior to the vote, Commissioner Swain requested the motion be amended to include enforcement of the Board's attendance policy and replace members who continue to miss meetings as noted by Ms. DeSantis earlier. Commissioner McIntyre agreed to the amendment and restated the motion to approve the appointments as presented, accept the \$1,000 into the JCPC budget and enforcement of the Board's attendance policy as it relates to the County's Board & Committee policy. The motion passed by a 6 – 1 vote.

Ayes: Chairman Lawhon, Commissioner Efird, Commissioner Lowder, Commissioner Morgan, Commissioner McIntyre and Commissioner Swain.

Nos: Vice Chairman Burleson.

Chairman Lawhon called for a short recess at 8:05 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

ITEM # 4 – COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY AG-DISTRICT AND ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AG-DISTRICTS

Presenter: Lori Ivey, County Extension Director

For Board consideration, Ms. Ivey presented the following applications for approval as Voluntary Ag-Districts:

- Sunnybrook Farms (3 applications)
- Robert Edward Hill
- W. Eugene Smith
- Andrew McSwain
- Louie and Lynn Hunter
- Buddy Hatley
- Terry L. Blalock

Additionally, the following application was submitted for approval as an Enhanced Voluntary Ag District:

- Brian and Nicole Hinson

With no questions from the Board, Commissioner Swain moved to approve all the applications as presented and was seconded by Vice Chairman Burleson. The motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 5 – BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT APPOINTMENTS

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Due to Mrs. Jennifer H. Lisk and Mr. Devron Furr's terms expiring on June 30, 2017, it was requested the Board take action to reappoint both of them to serve a three (3) term ending June 30, 2020. It was noted that both are eligible for reappointment and agreed to serve again.

Commissioner Lowder moved to approve the reappointment of Mrs. Jennifer H. Lisk and Mr. Devron Furr. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and carried by unanimous vote.

ITEM # 6 – FIREWORKS DISPLAY FOR THE ANNUAL OAKBORO 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Presenter: Andy Lucas, County Manager

Board approval was requested for the Town of Oakboro's annual fireworks display which will be held during their 4th of July celebration.

Vice Chairman Burleson moved to approve the request and was seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Motion carried by a 7 – 0 vote.

ITEM # 7 – DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESSES

Presenter: Chairman Lawhon

Chairman Lawhon began by stating that in recent months the County has approved several contracts to companies outside of the county and feels it was justified when those services are not available within our county. He continued by adding that when taxpayer dollars are used outside of the county, we lose the economic effect for our county noting the economic impact to continue to look for ways to do business with local companies whenever possible. As a commissioner and taxpayer, he feels the Board needs to do the same in order to keep the economic benefit of those dollars in the county.

Commissioner McIntyre noted that his father-in-law was a small business owner for many years in the county and always emphasized the importance of supporting local businesses. Since being a commissioner, he feels the Board has always tried to do that and has approved contracts with local businesses even when they were not the lowest bidders. He also believes that the County cannot afford to take a chance by not providing the best possible services to its citizens and has to consider every situation when presented and make the best decision possible.

Vice Chairman Burleson agreed stating that he tries to be mindful of supporting local businesses both as a citizen and commissioner and feels the Board's job is to make sure we take care of the citizens at all times. However, there are certain times when it is necessary to go outside the area for services which is unfortunate, but the Board has to find a balance to take care of its citizens in addition to local tax dollars and its support of businesses here at home.

The item was for discussion only and required no action.

ITEM # 8 – CONSENT AGENDA

Presenter: Chairman Lawhon

- A.** Minutes – Recessed and regular meetings of May 15, 2017 and special meeting of May 23, 2017.
- B.** Finance – Request acceptance of the Monthly Financial Report for Ten Months Ended April 30, 2017.
- C.** Finance – Request approval of budget amendment # 2017-45.
- D.** SCUSA Transportation – Request approval of the proposed updates to SCUSA’s Safety Program Plan for 2017.
- E.** Finance – Request approval of the vehicle tax refunds for May 2017.
- F.** Airport – Request approval of budget amendments # 2017-46 and #2017-47.
- G.** Sheriff’s Office – Request approval to surplus Deputy Tim Hill’s service weapon due to his recent retirement.

By motion, Commissioner Efirm moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. His motion was seconded by Commissioner McIntyre and passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

BOARD COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Swain stated that he was unable to attend the RPO meeting the previous week noting that the email after the meeting noted that agenda was light with not much discussion. Also he had an opportunity to tour the South Stanly High School STEM lab the prior week where the students did a great job explaining what they do in class and was able to see the renovations made to the school when the STEM lab was added.

Vice Chairman Burleson stated that he had attended the Stanly Water & Sewer Authority meeting earlier that afternoon where the Authority adopted their FY 2017-18 budget.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the Wanna Go Fast event held in May at the airport was a great success with several new world records being set. Coordinators for the event have also expressed an interest in having Stanly County host it again in the future.

Chairman Lawhon wished the County Attorney a happy birthday. He shared information included in the weekly Board Bulletin which noted a study completed by NCSU detailing the importance of commercial development to a county in order to maintain a diverse tax base and to help reduce the tax burden and obligation to fund public services on the residential

homeowner. It was noted that Stanly County has a residential tax base of 75% and only 25% commercial.

RECESS

With no further discussion, Chairman Lawhon recessed the meeting at 8:31 p.m. until Thursday, June 8, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Manager's Conference Room for a budget workshop.

Joseph Burleson, Vice Chairman

Tyler Brummitt, Clerk